Loan availability to agriculture sector

†1804. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a loan worth Rs. 7,36,570 crores would be required to be made available by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan in the agriculture sector of the country;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that by the end of 19th August, 2005, the loan worth Rs. 1,27,621 crores was required to be made available in this sector; and

(d) if not, the facts thereof and the loan availability required to be increased annually during the remaining years of the Plan in order to achieve the loan target by the end of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Working Group on Agricultural Credit, Cooperation and Crop Insurance for the Tenth Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission has estimated the requirement of credit for agriculture and allied sectors during the Tenth Plan Period at Rs. 7,36,570 crores.

(c) Considering the need to enhance credit flow to agriculture, Government of India announced a credit package on 18th June 2004 which envisages doubling of flow of agriculture credit by ensuring a 30 per cent annual growth in the next three years. Accordingly, credit disbursement target for 2005-06 has been set at Rs. 1,42,000 crore.

(d) Besides achieving the annual growth rate of 30% in agricultural credit flow, an additional loan of about Rs. 1,48,000 crore would be required during the remaining part of the Tenth Plan Period *i.e.* 2005-06 and 2006-07 for achieving the requirement of Rs. 7,36,570 crore as given by the Working Group referred in reply to part (a) of the question.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.